

THE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER.

No. 585.]

PHILADELPHIA, MAY 16, 1868. [VOL. XVIII.—No. 20.

ORIGINAL DEPARTMENT.

Communications.

GENERAL ELECTRIZATION IN DYSPES- SIA, WITH A STATEMENT OF SIXTY- THREE CASES.

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Dyspepsia of the nervous variety is unquestionably the most frequent and rebellious of all the chronic diseases of our modern civilization. It is most common in the two extremes of society, the very poor, and the luxuriously rich. But it is pre-eminently a malady of the intellectual and sedentary, and is most commonly met with among students, merchants, professional and literary men, and among females of all classes. We find it associated as a cause or consequence, or at least as a complication, with neuralgia, rheumatism, hysteria, epilepsy, paralysis, with the numerous affections of the genital apparatus in both sexes, and indeed with nearly every form of chronic disorder. Among what are called the brain-workers of society, there are comparatively few, at least in our country, who pass through the average term of life without experiencing to a greater or less degree, some of the symptoms of dyspepsia.

A disease that thus brings so much of sorrow on our strong-minded leaders in business and in letters—that drives the clergyman from his pulpit, the lawyer from his brief,

and even the physician from his practice,—a disease so universal and so persistent, which though rarely directly fatal, yet prepares the way for sudden dissolution, through its reactive effects on the brain and other important organs, ought not to be abandoned by the profession, until every means of relief that nature or art has placed in our power, has been thoroughly tested.

In this paper, we desire to introduce to the profession, a method of treating dyspepsia, which though but recently presented in our medical journals, and, so far as we know, only by ourselves, is yet in many of its essential features very far from being a novelty to a large number of charlatans and outsiders. We refer to General Electrization.

We will explain in brief, wherein general electrization differs from localized electrization, and also the principle on which it is used in nervous dyspepsia, and other diseases associated with constitutional debility. First of all, general electrization is not the use of electricity in the abstract. It is not holding the positive pole in one hand, and the negative in the other. It is not localized electrization, such as is now extensively used by the electricians in Europe, and some few in this country.

General electrization differs from the European, and from the ordinary methods of employing electrization in the following vitally important particulars.

1st. The feet of the patient are placed upon a sheet of copper, to which the negative pole is attached, while the positive is applied over the head, neck, and arms—down the spine over the chest, stomach, liver, spleen, and bowels, in short, over the entire person, from the head to the feet.

2d. In general, the moistened hand of the operator, is used as the positive electrode, (the other hand holding the sponge) the

current passing through his own arms and shoulder.*

3d. In its effects, general electrization is a powerful constitutional tonic, and as such is indicated and used in a wide range of diseases where tonic impressions are desired, on the same principle and with many of the same limitations as we use iron, bark, cold-bathing, and the like.

It is because it is a tonic that we have used this agent in dyspepsia. On precisely the same principle we have used it in chorea, rheumatism, amenorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa, anemia and neuralgia. Those who use electricity by any of the ordinary methods of localizing the current in separate muscles, will not secure these powerful constitutional tonic effects, however skilfully and perseveringly they may use it. *Localized electrization* produces only *local* effects. On the other hand, general electrization acts as a *tonic* on the *whole* system. The difference between the effects of these different methods, is best understood by an illustration. All will admit that bathing the body in cold water is a constitutional tonic. But when we wash the face, the hand or the fingers, we do not expect to experience the invigoration that is felt after a plunge into the sea, or after submitting to a shower bath over the entire surface of the body. Just so when we pass the electric current through any single muscle or group of muscles, or through any separate organ, as the stomach or liver, we have no logical reason to expect any of the same constitutional tonic effects, that are devised when the current is thoroughly and faithfully applied over the entire surface of the body.

Used in this way, the electricity causes repeated and violent contractions of many groups of muscles, and directly affects the liver, stomach and intestines, and indeed most of the muscles and nerve ramifications of the

system, including, it may be, the great sympathetic.

We may extend our illustrations almost indefinitely; sunlight is a general tonic, but we should call the man a fool who should expect to realize its effects by merely holding his face or arms to the sun, while the rest of the body was confined in a dark closet. Physical exercise is a tonic, but the simple combined motion of the fingers in writing is not to be mentioned in comparison with the invigoration produced by a brisk walk in the open air. We hope not to be misunderstood on this point, for on it hinges the whole doctrine of the tonic effects of general electrization. By as much then as bathing the whole body in cold water, or exposing it to the influence of sunlight, or exercising all its muscles by vigorous labor, have a constitutional tonic effect, immeasurably greater than that which can be obtained by merely washing the face or hands, or exposing the arms to the rays of the sun, or using isolated groups of muscles, by so much *general* electrization as a constitutional tonic is more efficacious than that which is merely *localized*. There have been, and are still, those who say that electricity is not a tonic. They are right. It is not electricity, but general electrization, used in the manner we have described, that produces constitutional tonic effects, and thus cures disease. Electricity in the abstract, is no more tonic than is cold water or sunlight, or simple muscular action. "It is not so much electricity that cures disease, as the physician who cures by means of electricity." A few questions will naturally occur to every inquiring mind, that may properly be discussed in this connection. The first and most obvious inquiry is, does the electric current pass into the inner tissues of the body, or only through the superficial layers just beneath the skin?

This question is answered both by carefully conducted experiments, with regard to the conductivity of the animal tissue, and by the results that are experienced from general electrization.

It has been ascertained that the human body conducts electricity by virtue of the saline solution its tissues contain, that the

* The current is more strongly felt, and electro-muscular contractility is much more readily excited, at the negative than at the positive pole. Although the operator grasps the positive electrode in one hand, and makes the application with the other, which is also positive, yet the operating hand feels the current more strongly than the other, because the body of the patient really becomes a part of the negative pole, with which his feet are connected.

epidermis when in a dry condition, presents the greatest resistance to the passage of the current, and that after it is moistened, the body conducts electricity about fifteen times better than pure cold water.

According to Professor ECKARD:*

The muscles contain 76 per cent. of water, and their resistance is 1.

The tendons contain 62 per cent. of water, and their resistance is 2.1.

The cartilages contain 62.5 per cent. of water, and their resistance is 2.

The nerves contain 52.5 per cent. of water, and their resistance is 2.1.

The bones contain 5 per cent. of water, and their resistance is 19.

It seems then that the muscles are the best conductors; next to these are the tendons, cartilages and nerves. The resistance of bone is nineteen times greater than that of the muscles. Mucous surfaces that are continually kept moist with secretion, conduct very actively. Therefore the direct application of the electrodes to the mouth, pharynx, larynx, middle ear or urethra, is very painful unless a very feeble current be used.

These observations of ECKARD have been confirmed by the researches of PTSCHELNIKOFF and LENZ.† It being established then that the tissues of the body conduct electricity in proportion to the saline solutions they contain, it at once becomes apparent, that when a moist electrode is pressed firmly against the region of the stomach, liver, spleen and intestines, the current must necessarily affect those organs, for they all contain a very large percentage of these solutions. We always press the moist hand *firmly* against these regions, so that the abdominal muscles, peritoneum and the viscera may lie against each other as closely as possible. It is sufficiently obvious, that when this course is pursued, the current must directly affect the viscera, whether the negative pole is applied to the back or at the feet, for it will not pass through the ossa inominata, which are poorer conductors by nearly twenty times than the moist tissues.

When the abdominal muscles are in a rigid condition, and no pressure is used to bring them against the peritoneum and viscera, it is

possible that the current may diffuse itself through the superficial muscles. For this reason, we always press the hand firmly against the abdomen, and also upwards beneath the ribs against the liver and stomach. Taking into consideration, then, the researches of Professor ECKHARD and others, and the recognized anatomical formation of the parts concerned, the conclusion seems inevitable, that the electric current, directed in the manner described, must reach the viscera, and consequently affect them either for good or evil. With the thorax, however, the case is entirely different. The ribs are comparatively poor conductors; the intercostal muscles are tense and unyielding, and indeed the entire structure of the thorax is so firm and stiff, that it is very doubtful whether the Faradaic current at least can be made to reach the lung-tissue as directly as it does the viscera of the abdomen. The anterior or inferior cartilaginous portion of the ribs, on the other hand, transmit the current as readily as the nerves, and on that account, assist very materially in the treatment of the upper portions of the stomach and intestines. Keeping in mind the above-mentioned facts, with regard to the relative conductivity of tissues, it is evident that when the electrode is passed down the back, and on both sides, the electricity, when firm pressure is exercised, should affect not only the layers of muscles lying beneath, but also the nerves that arise from the cord, the kidneys and liver; the posterior root of the lung, possibly the spinal cord itself through the vertebral articulations, and very likely also the great sympathetic.

When applied around the neck, anteriorly, posteriorly and laterally, the current should affect the superficial and deep muscles and the tissues of the pharynx, larynx and trachea. When the hand is passed over the forehead, or over the entire surface of the cranium (the hair being thoroughly moistened) the current cannot pass through the skull to the brain, because bone is so poor a conductor, and consequently should only affect the superficial nerves and muscles.

The theory is quite admissible, that when the electrode is applied firmly against the

* Eckhardt Beiträge, zur Anatomie und Physiologie. Giessen 1856. Heft I.

† Lenz und Ptschelnikoff, Poggendorfs Annalen.

upper portion of the spinal column, the current may penetrate to the base of the brain, through the articulation at the foramen magnum.

When the electrode is passed up and down the upper and lower extremities, all of the superficial and many of the deep muscles should be sensibly affected.

But in the deceptivescience of therapeutics, theories as such are well nigh valueless. In this department, more perhaps than in any other, and especially in electro-therapeutics, experience must ever be our last appeal. The question now resolves itself to this; does experience prove that the electric current affects the body, according to the principles here advanced? The reply is unquestionably in the affirmative. Nor is this view entirely peculiar to ourselves. It is corroborated by all, so far as we know, who have had opportunities of judging by personal experience or observation. That general electrization affects the stomach, is proved by the fact that it stimulates the appetite, relieves the nervous feeling in the epigastric region, and indeed most of the symptoms that are attendant or dyspepsia. Its effects on the liver are sometimes experienced so directly and so rapidly, that jaundice disappears after one or two vigorous applications.

That it reaches the large and small intestines, is proved by the rapidity with which it relieves, and oftentimes permanently cures constipations that are not dependent on mechanical obstruction or incurable paralysis, and also by its tonic effect in chronic diarrhoea.

That it reaches the uterus is clear on the one hand, from the fact that it sometimes causes unpleasant hemorrhages, in some morbid conditions of that organ; and on the other hand, by the many beneficial results that it produces in cases of dysmenorrhœa, amenorrhœa and menorrhagia. Cases illustrative of its influence in these disorders, were detailed in a paper on the subject, read by Dr. ROCKWELL before the New York County Medical Society.

That the kidneys are affected when the electrodes are passed down the spine and over the lumbar and gluteal regions, is proved by

the fact not unfrequently observed, that after such applications, patients at once pass unusual quantities of urine, and are indeed sometimes obliged to rise several times to urinate the night succeeding a powerful application. We have observed this phenomenon in cases of rheumatism and in dropsy, and in patients who are in no wise hysterical. The ultimate result has been a decided relief of the dropsical and rheumatic symptoms. We may adduce here, as an additional proof that the electric current penetrates the digestive organs, the fact that when the stomach, liver, or intestines are in an inflammatory or irritable condition, they are abnormally sensitive, even to very weak applications, and that, too, when the mere pressure of the hand, when no current is passing, is not painful. From clinical experience, the conclusion is inevitable, then, that the electric current does penetrate the internal organs in the manner that we should suppose it must do, from the established relative conductivity of the different tissues. The question, upon what principle general electrization achieves its tonic effects, may be answered by a variety of theories that may or may not be true. We may simply say, *en passant*, that, in our opinion, the theory seems at least plausible, that these extraordinary tonic effects of general electrization are due partly to the mechanical operation of the current on the different nerves and tissues. When we consider the strengthening power of physical exercise of any kind, it is not difficult to believe that the unusual tonic effects of general electrization may be due very largely to the fact that the electric current penetrates the tissues deeply, and exercises the various muscles and organs more thoroughly, and consequently causes a greater increase in the activity of the processes of waste and repair than any of the ordinary remedial agents or systems of treatment. The undoubted good effects that result from rubbing, pounding, kneading, and the like processes, may properly be adduced as arguments in favor of the theory that the tonic effects of general electrization are quite largely due to its mechanical action.

When static electricity, from an old-fash-

ioned cylinder machine, is applied in the form of sparks, to a patient on an insulated stool, it accumulates in the system and increases the nervous force, but in general electrization with the Faradaic current, it is at least very doubtful whether any electricity, as such, remains in the system at all.

If it directly adds to the nervous power of the body, it is probable that it does so not by accumulation, but by its effects, whether mechanical or otherwise, in its rapid passage through it.

The question, whether the current passing through the operator in such quantities, is not injurious, is answered positively in the negative.

It may, however, be stated at the outset, that the Faradaic current does not work by reflex action, or at least but very feebly, and therefore, in its passage from one hand to the other, it would seem that it could not affect any vital organ, or much of the nervous system. The query, whether these same results of general electrization might not be produced by the galvanic as well as by the Faradaic current, has been answered in the statement already made.

The galvanic current works by reflex action, while the Faradaic does not, at least to any marked extent. For this reason it might be injurious to pass it so frequently through the arms and shoulders of the operator. We have observed that after experimenting with it in this way, it has caused unpleasant dizziness and headache. What the results might be if we continued to use the galvanic current in the same way as the Faradaic, we have not yet had the hardihood to determine. Furthermore, the galvanic stream is not readily controlled for the purpose of general electrization. Though more intense than the Faradaic, it does not so readily produce contractions, when applied in a general way, as the Faradaic. In localized electrization, one pole being applied to the nerve and the other over the muscle, the galvanic current will sometimes produce contractions when the Faradaic will not.*

Finally, the best apparatus yet devised for producing the galvanic current for medical use, is not as convenient, as portable or reliable, as the electro-magnetic apparatus that we use in general electrization. We are yet experimenting with the galvanic stream, and it is not impossible that it may be of service in conditions of the system for which it has never yet been employed. We place the negative pole at the feet, instead of the positive, because we have found by experience, that the effects are more agreeable than when the poles are reversed. It is an accepted fact of science, that the negative pole produces different chemical effects from the positive. In making simple local applications to a limb, or to any small portion of the body, we vary the relative position of the poles, according to indications. But for all calmative tonic effects, whether local or general, the descending is far more agreeable and satisfactory than the ascending.

To the inquiry, why a sheet of copper is used for the negative pole in preference to a tub of warm water or some other form of electrode, we reply, that it is found, both by theory and by experience, to be a better and more convenient conductor for the feet than any other arrangement that has been proposed. Liquids are good conductors, as has been stated, but it has been demonstrated by Prof. WEBER,† that copper is fifty million times a better conductor than water. Dr. J. ALTHAUS states that an electric current will more easily pass through a copper wire, ten

Strom und die Erklärung desselben. Deutsche Klinik, 1864, Ar. 7.

* Ueber Method. Electricisirung Gelähmter Muskeln. Berlin, 1855.

* Die Electricität in der Medicin. Berlin, 1866.

* Die Electricität in ihrer Anwendung auf Prac. Med. Berlin, 1851.

* Notes to translation of Trousseau's Lectures on Clinical Medicine. Part 2, page 331.

Schulz: Ueber das Verhalten der Muskeln bei Paralysis nervi facialis gegen den inducirten und constanten electrischen Strom. Wiener Wochenschrift, 1860. No. 27.

* Baierlacher: Beiträge zur Therapeutischen Verwerthung des galvanischen Stromes. Bayerisches ärztliches Intelligenzblatt. 1859. No. 4.

* Cases of Reflex and Organic Paralysis treated by Electricity, by A. D. Rockwell, M. D., and George M. Beard, M. D. Medical Record, Vol. 2, No. 42.

† Questiones Physiologicae de Phenomenis Galvano Magneticis in Corpore Humano Observatis. Lipsiae, 1836.

* Neumann: Ueber das verschiedene Verhalten gelähmter Muskeln gegen den constanten und inducirten

thousand miles in length, than through a layer of water one inch in length, and one of the best conducting liquids with which we are acquainted, viz., a solution of sulphate of copper, conducts electricity sixteen million times worse than metallic copper.

As has been stated, the epidermis in a dry state is a poor conductor, and for that reason we usually moisten the copper plate with warm water before commencing the séance. But aside from the superior conductibility of copper, it is, for obvious reasons, far more convenient than a vessel of tepid water or any other similar arrangement. The question in regard to the permanency of the tonic effect of general electrization can only be answered by time and experience.

In the indigestions, and in other forms of disease that we have treated by this method, we have found the result to be as lasting and as permanent as similar effects when obtained by the use of iron, strychnine, bark, cold bathing, travelling, etc. We are confident that in many phases of nervous disorder, general electrization is not only more successful than merely internal medication, but also more enduring in its effects. The reasons for this are, that it gives, as it were, a new impression to the system, and that, by virtue of its tonic effects on the digestive apparatus and nervous system in general, it causes an increase in the stock of vitality, from which the patient may draw for some time, even under depressing conditions.

From the results indicated in the accompanying cases, it appears that the tonic effects of general electrization are quite remarkable, though they are by no means consistent or uniform. In the majority of cases of debility, it improves the appetite, and sometimes quite speedily; but we meet with instances where it has no such effect, even where the treatment is long-continued.

If the appetite has been morbid, it is usually appeased and regulated.

In cases of debility proceeding from any cause whatever, we do not expect to accomplish much by general electrization until we have first affected the organs of digestion, and yet in one very marked instance, we failed to

improve the appetite, although the general health was much benefited. General electrization usually relieves constipation temporarily, if not permanently, and yet to this rule there are frequently exceptions. It also produces slight temporary drowsiness in many cases, and makes the sleep at night more refreshing; but we have met with those whom it seemed to make wakeful. A single application often calms the nervous pains connected with indigestion, but these will continue to recur until persevering treatment has invigorated the entire system. To the majority the applications are rather agreeable than otherwise, and only very rarely are they regarded as positively unpleasant.

The annexed list includes a wide range of chronic nervous affections, but all were more or less dependent or associated with digestive derangement. General electrization was employed, not for the *name* of any disease, but for the *symptom* of indigestion and debility, in a variety of affections, and for the sake of its constitutional tonic effects.

In the light of what has been advanced, it is evident that general electrization is very far from being an *easy* process. Its successful employment requires several vitally important conditions.

1st. *A thorough method of application.* Instead of making the applications of electricity general, and rousing up the whole system with fearlessness and vigor, it has been the custom to use the agent in an indifferent manner, and then, if favorable results were not manifested in a few days, the trial was thought to be sufficient; or else, after the manner of DUCHENNE, localized electrization was essayed, and oftentimes with the expectation that a constitutional disorder would be benefited by merely local treatment. One great secret of success, (aside from skilful manipulation, which is only to be obtained by constant and varied practice,) is the thoroughness and persistence with which the applications are made over the entire surface of the body.

2d. *The quality and intensity of the current, whether coarse or fine, mild or powerful.* A well-adjusted armature of an electro-magnetic machine, that gives a rapidly and equally in-

interrupted, or, in other words, a *fine* current, is much to be preferred to one that is ill-adjusted, and that gives a current that is slowly or irregularly interrupted, and which, consequently, is unpleasant and positively injurious in its effects, especially on nervous irrepresible constitutions.

The results claimed for general electrization cannot be secured, at least in their fulness and variety, by the use of the magneto-electric or so-called "*crank*" machine, however thoroughly or perseveringly the applications may be made. The form of magneto-electric apparatus in which the electricity is generated by turning a handle so rapidly that the ends of a wire are brought into frequent approximation to a permanent magnet, that is so commonly found in the offices of physicians, gives a harsh, jerking current, that is very irritating when applied locally, and is rarely sufficiently powerful to accomplish the constitutional tonic effects of general electrization, even in the hands of a skilful electrician. Moreover, they are inconvenient, require the aid of an assistant, and cannot be properly graduated. In KIDDER'S electro-magnetic apparatus, that we always use for the purposes of general electrization, the helix and armature are so constructed that it is always easy to obtain a current of an exceedingly fine and soothing quality, and which, even when but one Smee's cell (zinc and platina) is used, is sufficiently powerful for all the ordinary purposes of general electrization.

In making applications to the head, or to the organs of digestion when in a weak or irritable condition, it is necessary to use the most scrupulous care to graduate the current to as mild and soothing a quality as possible. But the strength of the current should be gradually increased from time to time, as the patient seems to be able to endure it, until, perhaps, the whole power of the apparatus may be employed.

3d. *The constitution of each patient must be studied by itself.* There are nervous and delicate females who can bear a very powerful current during a protracted sitting, and there are stout burly men who suffer unpleasant symptoms from a short application of a cur-

rent of only moderate intensity. An overdose of general electrization, like an overdose of any other powerful tonic, is liable to be followed by a disagreeable and alarming reaction. Patients often complain of sleeplessness and nervous tremors at the outset of a course of treatment, even when the applications are made with studious and practised care.

4th. *Careful attention to the mechanical details of the operation.* In the majority of cases, the operator should pass the current through himself, and use his hand as an electrode, for the reason that it is more effective in its results, more agreeable to the patient, and more convenient for himself after he has once acquired the art, than even the softest sponge. To manipulate with the fingers readily and effectively when a powerful current is rushing through the hand, requires long and repeated preliminary practice, especially for those who are very susceptible to the electric influence. To make the application thoroughly and powerfully, with the least possible discomfort to the patient, the strength of the current and the firmness of the pressure of the hand must be continually graduated according to the sensitiveness of the different localities. Bony prominences are always susceptible to the current on account of the tenderness of the periosteum. The particular points where nervous plexus or ramifications are reached, should be carefully studied out by experiments on the *living* subject.

The clothing of the patient should be removed or loosened in such a way, that without unpleasant exposure, all parts of the body may be reached without difficulty, and the sheet of copper at the feet, as well as the hand of the operator, must be kept continually moistened with *tepid* water. In some cases the application must be cut short in five minutes, to keep the patient from fainting, and in others may be prolonged for an hour, not only with benefit, but with pleasure. The intervals between the sittings should never be less than thirty-six or forty-eight hours, and must sometimes be extended to a week or ten days.

But after time, experience, and patience

have overcome the obstacles and mastered the annoying details of general electrization, the results it helps us to achieve in the treatment of dyspepsia and its complications alone, are an abundant and sure reward.

914 Broadway, N. Y.

Statement of Cases showing the Results of Treatment by General Electrization, of Cases of Dyspepsia with Complications.

[In all, 63 cases are given by the authors, of which our space only permits us to insert the following as fair examples.—Eds.]

1. Age 22, male; duration of disease, eighteen months; constipation and vertigo, with extreme nervousness; number of applications, ten. Result—constipation and vertigo removed, increase in weight and strength.

2. Age 31, male; duration of disease, three years; pyrosis, tympanitis, and extreme emaciation; number of applications, twelve. Result—every symptom dissipated, fifteen pounds increase in weight.

3. Age 52, male; duration of disease, eighteen months; loss of appetite, nausea, and constipation, with jaundice and somnolence; number of applications, fourteen. Result—appetite keen, bowels somewhat more regular, coincident affections dissipated.

4. Age 23, male, duration of disease, two years; distress after eating, cardialgia, and emaciation, with anemia; number of applications, eight. Result—complete relief, some increase in flesh.

5. Age 28, female, duration of disease, nine months; loss of appetite, pyrosis, and debility, with amenorrhœa and chlorosis; number of applications, fifteen. Result—complete relief of symptoms, and coincident affections apparently cured.

6. Age 24, male; duration of disease, four years; loss of appetite, great distress after eating, and emaciation, with anemia and palpitation of heart; number of applications, ten. Result—symptoms greatly relieved, coincident affections approximately cured.

7. Age 32, female; duration of disease, fifteen months; constipation, loss of appetite, and distress after eating, with hysteria and insomnia; number of applications, thirteen. Result—constipation alleviated, other symptoms and affections cured.

8. Age 60, female; duration of disease, one year; pyrosis, and appetite capricious, with muscular rheumatism; number of applications, eight.

teen. Result—no beneficial results, pyrosis possibly a symptom of organic disease of stomach.

9. Age 31, female; duration of disease, eight years; loss of appetite and constant pain in the epigastric region, with neuralgia, anemia, and menorrhagia; number of applications, twenty. Result—symptoms completely relieved, coincident affections approximately cured.

10. Age 30; duration of disease, 3½ years; great distress always after eating, with irritable spleen; number of applications, four. Result—No appreciable change, patient voluntarily abandoned treatment.

11. Age 60, male, duration of disease, —; loss of appetite and constant pain in epigastric region, with excessive debility; number of applications, one. Result—symptoms seemed somewhat aggravated, patient abandoned treatment.

11. Age 41, female; duration of disease, three months; loathing of food, with anemia and excessive excitability; number of applications, seven. Result—much less excitable, appetite normal.

13. Age 30, male; duration of disease, five years; constipation with hypochondriasis; number of applications, four. Result—complete relief.

14. Age —, female; duration of disease, five months; constipation and loss of appetite, with dysmenorrhœa; number of applications, two. Result—discontinued treatment, no relief.

15. Age 23, female; duration of disease, —; bowels irregular, and loathing of food, with dysmenorrhœa; number of applications, eight. Result—appetite fair, bowels regular, dysmenorrhœa cured.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO TOXICOLOGY.

By P. H. VANDER WEYDE, M. D.,

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(Continued from p. 208.)

No. 19. Poisons Found in Snuff.

The most common adulteration in snuff, made from inferior insipid kinds of tobacco, are quick lime or some caustic alkali; the latter substances serve a quadruple purpose; 1st, of developing an acrid and pungent effect on the olfactory organs; 2d, of keeping up a desirable degree of moisture; 3d, increasing its weight, it being always sold by weight; 4th, neutralizing the acid developed by the fermentation of the molasses and water which

enters in the regular sauces, added at an early period of its preparations.

For the purely pungent effect, sometimes very finely powdered glass is added, for giving it a peculiar flavor, urine, chloride of ammonium, and sometimes rum are used, for keeping it moist, common salt with chloride of calcium or magnesium, and more recently glycerine has been introduced.

The above substances are easily detected in common kinds of cheap snuff, by any chemist who will take the pains to search for them, but it must not be supposed the more expensive kinds are better in this respect, for instance the Scotch, Spannish, Russian, Mac-coby, Welsh, Lundy foot, French, Strasburg snuffs, are mostly medicated, either to give a peculiar flavor or color, or some remedial virtue or vice. These substances are nitrate of silver, the furepeth mineral or basic sulphate of mercury, gold sulphur or red sulphur of antimony, tartar emetic, etc. In this way, they obtain undoubtedly some remedial effect in cases of neuralgia, ophthalmia, migraine, tic douloureux, etc.

However, it is almost unnecessary to remark, how the medical practitioners may be annoyed by symptoms produced by overdoses of such drugs, introduced in the system by an unsuspected channel.

I give this as a hint to my colleagues, principally those in the Southern and Western States, where the ladies indulge in the delightful habit of *dipping* (*) which appears to be the principle use for which snuff is employed at present in this country.

The Theory of Spontaneous Generation.

M. DONNÉ, who has so long and ably supported the theory of the spontaneous generation of organic life, admits that his latest researches, so far from supporting neterogeny, convince him that it is impossible to evolve life from living germs. The fact that a minute vegetable growth has been found within the starch cells of the artichoke is no proof of spontaneous generation.

(*) *Dipping* consists in rubbing the teeth and gums with snuff, by means of a small stick of soft wood; it constitutes the female form of tobacco chewing, and ladies addicted to this vice, can as little do without, as a chewing sailor without his everlasting plug of tobacco.—Dr. W.

Medical Societies.

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

MINUTES OF THE 19TH ANNUAL SESSION.

Washington, D. C., May 5, 1868.

The nineteenth annual meeting of the American Medical Association commenced its sessions this morning at Carroll Hall, on G street.

At 11 o'clock the Association was called to order by the President, Prof. SAMUEL D. GROSS, M. D., of Philadelphia, and the exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. PINCKNEY. Occupying seats on the platform were Vice-Presidents A. C. POST, of New York; Dr. J. L. ATLEE, of Pennsylvania; Dr. H. R. STORER, of Boston; and Dr. C. C. COX, of Maryland;—also, Dr. W. B. ATKINSON, of Philadelphia, Permanent Secretary, and Dr. J. W. H. LOVEJOY, of Washington, Assistant Secretary.

The President then introduced the Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, Dr. GRAFTON TYLER, from whose address of welcome we give copious extracts, regretting our inability to publish the whole, which was throughout, received with demonstrations of approval. Dr. TYLER said:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Association: The pleasant duty is assigned me to announce your welcome. After another year, spent in useful and laborious professional service, you are again assembled for all the pleasures and all the hopes of a social and a scientific reunion.

Your coming among us has been anticipated and provided for in the spirit of fraternity and of hospitality; but until this moment, when we see our wishes realized in this vast gathering of representatives from every part of our territory assembled before us, we knew not the fervor which inspires us now to greet you as we do, one and all, with the warmest welcome of our hearts. As I see before me representatives from the East, from the West, from the North, and from the South, I feel that the first pleasant promptings of duty overflow in a joyous enthusiasm. Welcome, then—thrice welcome among us; not as strangers, for the same enchanting power which bid you here binds us to a common brotherhood in science; not as foreigners—for this city, founded by Washington, the father of his country, bearing his immortal name, is the home of all his country's people.

In greeting you, we also congratulate ourselves not only on your presence here to-day, but upon the prospect of this being the place of your

biennial meetings. What more appropriate selection than this centre of the national life—the seat of the National Government. You are not more the conservators of the life of an individual than you are of the life of a nation. Medicine, in its philosophy, its precepts, and its practice, is coextensive with the operations of government. It is exalted in the seat of justice, deciding, with inflexible sternness, the fate of innocence or guilt. It is sought and embraced for its indispensable aid, not only to the internal welfare, but to the national defence by sea and by land, as well as to its commercial wealth and its progressive civilization. The purposes of our profession are not less important than any which operate near the central power of a great nation, to give it perpetuity and exercise its efficiency. What a more appropriate selection, then, than this as the depository of the archives, and the chief place for the assembling of this National Medical Congress.

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In all the efforts of man nothing has contributed so much to success as the principle of combination, and nothing has more secured the advancement of science than the establishment of associations and societies. The larger part of our knowledge is derived from comparing our own observations with those of others, and by the mutual communication of our thoughts we solve many otherwise insuperable difficulties. I see now before me the distinguished representatives of the universities, the hospitals, the societies, and associations of the cities of every State; I see before me the representatives of the self-reliant, self-sacrificing, and no less honorable and efficient country practitioner; I see before me the representatives of the army and navy, whose achievements in science cannot be eclipsed by the glory of war. Thus the profession of the whole country becomes associated for combined and harmonious effort in improving the result of their labors. For twenty-one years you have thus met together at great personal sacrifice—though sacrifice is common in your daily avocations, and attends all your paths to success.

The history of medicine in this country affords nothing compared with these annual meetings, which has so much stimulated the industry, the generous professional and scientific ardor, the ethical spirit, and useful emulation of its votaries.

Well may the founders of this Association, who have been permitted to live so long, be this day proud of its record.

Thank God that he who was "*primus inter*

pares," is still spared to give us the joy of his genial presence, and the blessing of his wise counsel and commanding influence, for whatever is now, or may be, recorded in the transactions of this Association, all that is profound in experimental research, all that is ingenious in discovery, all that is sublime in speculative science, all that is excellent for practical good, flowing to this common receptacle from the incitement of his forethought and the inspiration of his genius, while they distinguish their authors, become enduring monuments of his fame.

Under the guidance of well disciplined minds this Association, strictly national in its organization, and only professional in its aims and purposes, has singularly preserved its integrity, and, in confining its action to these purposes, has given an example worthy of imitation.

It is composed of the young and the old, of every positional grade—embracing always the great, the wise, and the illustrious—all of whom, as if inspired for the advancement and the dignity of the profession, though representing different States, with clashing opinions distinguishing them one from another, though divided in religious and political sentiment, and we may say even in views of social order, yet coming together as a common brotherhood in science, uniting in one grand concert to celebrate her truths, and in laying upon her altars the free gifts and never-fading offerings of wisdom and humanity.

While we feel the spirit of this sublime inspiration, we bid you again, one and all, the earnest welcome of our hearts.

Dr. Tyler's address was referred to the Committee on Publication.

The roll was then called by the Secretary, and a very full delegation was found to be present. About 320 names were registered.

Dr. Tyler, from the Committee of Arrangements, then announced the programme, which, after stating where the various Sections would meet at three o'clock, P. M., of each day, proceeded to announce the following as the manner in which the delegates will enjoy themselves in the evening.

On Tuesday evening, between 8 and 9 o'clock, the Association will pay their respects to the President. At 9 o'clock Speaker Colfax will hold a reception.

On Wednesday evening, from 6 to 10 o'clock, there will be an exhibition of microscopic views at the Army Medical Museum, Tenth street. At 9 o'clock Chief Justice Chase, and Senator Mor-

gan, of New York, will entertain the Association at their residences.

On Thursday evening, from 8 to 9 o'clock, it has been arranged to have the Capitol building lighted, and the dome brilliantly illuminated.

At 9 o'clock the delegates will be entertained by Mayor Wallach at his residence.

On motion of Dr. Arnold, of Georgia, Dr. W. Percival, of Aiken, S. C., was received as a delegate.

It was announced that the morning sessions would be devoted to the transaction of general business, and the afternoon sessions to the reading and discussion of papers in the several Sections, viz., 1. Chemistry and Materia Medica. 2. Practical Medicine and Obstetrics. 3. Surgery and Anatomy. 4. Meteorology, Medical Topography, and Epidemic Diseases. 5. Medical Jurisprudence, Hygiene, and Physiology. 6. Psychology.

Excellent arrangements were made for the accommodation of the various Sections.

At the last meeting of the Association at Cincinnati, in May, 1867, the following regulations were adopted, governing the publication of papers read in the Sections.

Resolved, That the several Sections of the Association be requested in the future to refer no papers or reports to the Committee on Publication, except such as can be fairly classed under one of the three following heads, viz.:

1st. Such as may contain and establish *positively* new facts, modes of practice, or principles of real value.

2d. Such as may contain the results of well-devised original experimental researches.

3d. Such as present so complete a review of the facts on any particular subject as to enable the writer to deduce therefrom legitimate conclusions of importance.

Resolved, That the several Sections be requested in the future to refer all such papers as may be presented to them for examination by this Association, that contain matter of more or less value, and yet cannot be fairly ranked under either of the heads mentioned in the foregoing resolution, back to their authors, with the recommendation that they be published in such regular medical periodicals as said authors may select, with the privilege of placing at the head of such papers, "Read to the — Section of the American Medical Association, on the — day of —, 18—."

Resolved, That no report or other paper shall be presented to this Association, unless it be so prepared that it can be put at once into the hands of the Permanent Secretary, to be transmitted to the Committee of Publication.

The next business in order was the address of the President, Dr. Gross. The address occupied nearly an hour in the delivery, and it is impossi-

ble for us to give more than an outline of a few of the topics discussed in it.

He expressed profound gratitude for the distinguished honor conferred upon him in placing him in a position so often occupied by the distinguished men of the profession. For this mark of respect and confidence he could only promise to do his duty impartially, and, as far as possible, expedite the business of the Association. The Professor then, at length, explained the object and ends of the Association, the duties of the profession, the advancement of the science, the brilliancy of the rank attained by the American faculty in the ranks of the profession throughout the world; the great good the Association had done in the past twenty years by its annual gatherings, and the continued good promised by its uninterrupted meetings. He gave at length his views on the reception of prize essays on medical subjects, and of the duties of professors of colleges, the management of hospitals, etc. He spoke in eloquent and impressive language of the departed members of the Association, and was exceedingly brilliant in his hopes and sanguine expectations of a bright future for this great Republic; entreated the profession to go on doing good, as usual, throughout the length and breadth of the land.

He dwelt very forcibly upon the disadvantages labored under by the medical officers of the navy. Surgeons of the highest grade in the English navy ranked with admirals, while those of our navy reached no higher grade than that ranking with captain or commander. The establishment of a college, where a knowledge of the treatment of the diseases and injuries of the lower animals could be acquired, was very strongly advocated; and it was stated that thousands of highly valuable animals perished annually for the want of a proper knowledge of their diseases. All the countries of Europe contain numerous veterinary colleges, furnished with all the means and appliances for diffusing a proper knowledge of the diseases of the animal kingdom.

The address was referred to the Committee on Publication.

Reports of Committees were then called, and received appropriate reference.

The Committee on Ethics submitted two reports through their chairman, Dr. H. I. Bowditch, of Mass.; one on consultation with Women practitioners, to which was appended the following resolution:

Resolved, That the question of sex has never been considered by this Association in connection with consultations among medical practitioners, and that, in the

opinion of this meeting, every member of this body has a perfect right to consult with any one who presents the "only presumptive evidence of professional abilities and acquirements" required by this Association, viz., "a regular medical education."

The other was on the resignation of Dr. Julius Homberger, of New York, who, after committing himself to irregular practices, and failing to get the endorsement of the Association, ostentatiously offered his resignation. The Committee offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the resignation of Dr. Julius Homberger, of New York, be accepted, and that all further consideration of him, or of his peculiar methods of procuring practice, be indefinitely postponed.

The reports were laid on the table.

The Committee on Prize Essays reported that four essays had been submitted, and the two prizes of \$100 each were still in the hands of the committee, as no award had been made. They recommend that both should be offered for the best essay, but the subject was indefinitely postponed.

Drs. W. T. Taliaferro and J. H. Buckner preferred charges against Dr. A. G. Field, of Iowa. The matter was laid over for investigation.

The Association then adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock on Wednesday.

In the evening, the Association in a body were received by the President of the United States, and by Hon. SCHUYLER COLFAX, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SECOND DAY—Wednesday, May 6th.

Pursuant to adjournment the association met at 9 o'clock. There were present over three hundred delegates. Among the distinguished visitors who occupied seats on the platform were Professor N. R. Smith, of Baltimore, and Dr. W. Marsden, of Canada. Professor Gamgee, of the Prince Albert Veterinary College, London, author of a number of valuable works on veterinary medicine, especially one on the Rinderpest, was also an invited guest; also Senator Drake, of Missouri.

The report of the committee on the subjects embraced in the President's address was received, and several suggestions made by the committee relative to the same, which were ordered to be put in the form of resolutions and submitted to the Association.

Dr. Cox, chairman of the committee to revise and amend the present constitution, submitted his report. It was ordered to be printed and to lie over under the rules to the next meeting.

A communication from the Medical profession of New Orleans was read, inviting the Association

to hold its next annual session in that city, and temporarily laid over.

A number of papers were received and referred to the various committees.

The Association then took a recess of fifteen minutes, so as to give the various State delegations an opportunity to select a member from their respective States to form the nominating committee for the ensuing year. This committee (one from each State) are empowered to nominate all officers for the Association.

At 10½ o'clock the Association reassembled, when the various State delegates sent in the names of the delegates they had selected to form the nominating committee.

The following are the names selected: Maine, Dr. N. P. Monroe; New Hampshire, G. B. Twitchell; Vermont, none; Massachusetts, H. R. Storer; Rhode Island, O. Bullock; Connecticut, A. Woodward; New York, J. H. Armsby; New Jersey, S. Lilly; Pennsylvania, S. Pollock; Delaware, H. F. Askew; Maryland, J. Hellsby; Virginia, W. Owen; W. Virginia, S. Cummings; Georgia, R. D. Arnold; Ohio, W. H. Mussey; Illinois, E. A. Hildreth; Tennessee, John Keller; Alabama, R. D. Wetherly; Indiana, Geo. Sutton; Iowa, J. M. Cleaver; Michigan, A. B. Palmer; District of Columbia, F. Howard; United States Army Surgeon, Geo. A. Otis.

After the reading of the names and their acceptance, it was resolved that the committee retire at once to organize.

While the committee were absent several papers were received and referred to the various committees.

A number of names of physicians were received as candidates for membership to the Association. They were elected members by invitation.

A letter was received and read, inviting the Association to hold its next annual session at Fauquier White Sulphur Springs, Virginia. Referred.

Professor Gamgee, of the Albert Veterinary College, London, was introduced to the Association, and made some appropriate remarks.

Senator Drake, of Missouri, entering the hall, was invited by the President to a seat upon the platform, and, thanking the Association for their courtesy, remarked that he had called in to see the worthy chairman upon some private business, and had no idea of being so highly honored as to be called to the platform. He spoke in feeling terms of the long continued intimacy that existed between Professor Gross, and his (the Senator's) father, Professor Drake, the well-known late president of the Transylvania Medical College of

Kentucky, and one of the pioneers of the medical profession in the West.

Dr. A. B. Palmer, of Michigan, Chairman of Committee on Medical Education, submitted a report of some length, which was listened to with marked attention by the Association. It was referred to the Committee of Publication, and ordered to be printed.

On motion, Dr. Thomas I. Beeson, of the Choctaw Nation, was admitted as a member.

Dr. Mendenhall then submitted a written report on Medical Literature. Referred to the Committee on Publication.

On motion, the communications in relation to the place of holding the next annual convention were taken up, and referred to the Committee on Nominations.

On motion, the Chair was authorized to appoint a committee of delegates to attend the Medical Association of Canada, to meet in Montreal in September next.

The report of the Committee on Medical Ethics, submitted Tuesday, was taken up and discussed.

The resolution was as follows:

Resolved, That the question of sex has never been considered by this Association in connection with consultations among medical practitioners, and that, in the opinion of this meeting, every member of this body has a perfect right to consult with any one who presents the "only presumptive evidence of professional abilities and acquirements required by this association," viz: a regular medical education.

In support of the resolution, Dr. Washington L. Atlee, of Pennsylvania, delivered a vigorous speech, in which he advocated the recognition of female medical practitioners by the Association.

He spoke of the difficulties which had been thrown in the way of women making progress in their studies; but now they had a college of their own, which was free from all reasonable objections. In other countries women had achieved the highest honors as medical practitioners, and he thought what could be done in France and Germany, could most certainly be honorably done in the United States. He hoped the resolution would be adopted.

Dr. D. F. Condie, of Pennsylvania, next took the stand. It was his firm conviction that the mass of women would achieve higher honors in following the line of duty which had been marked out for them in the order of nature, and would do more good than in turning out physicians.

This remark was greeted with enthusiastic ap-

plause, but the Doctor begged them to keep their demonstrations of applause until he got through.

He proceeded to say: I deny that it is impossible for women not to be excellent physicians. There have been many eminent professional female medical practitioners in Europe, and the opportunities were equally favorable for the development of skilful and accomplished female medical practitioners in this country. But he thought this was a subject foreign to the interests of the American Medical Association. The question whether a male physician should consult with them ought to be left to individual judgment; let every member decide for himself. He then spoke of the situation in which one might be placed in an extreme case, where it was important—nay, absolutely necessary—that prompt action should be taken; but should the Association by its action condemn their recognition, what could a member of the Association do? He hoped the resolution would be laid on the table, and the course to be followed left entirely to individual discretion. The more it was discussed, and the more the society opposed them, the greater would be the sympathy created for this class of the profession.

Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago, was the next speaker. His views of the subject were clearly defined, and he believed this Association had never taken action upon any matter which distinguished practitioners, either on account of sex or color. There was nothing in the laws of the Association forbidding any member from consulting with any qualified person one way or the other. It was of no importance who the party consulted was, provided they were duly qualified. That had become the universal standard.

If any local Association saw fit to enact a law restricting its members, that was a matter for such societies to determine; but those so interfered with should not claim the legislative power of this Association to pass *ex post facto* laws for their especial benefit.

Dr. Davis next spoke of the dignity of woman, and the important part which she had at all times taken in the affairs of nations, and in all ages of the world. His respect, his reverence, his love, would forbid him drawing any distinctions between the sexes. Wherever and whenever humanity had needed her assistance, she was foremost in good works. The law of the Creator had assigned her sphere of duties; but if there was one who conscientiously believed that she could be of greater service as a physician, why should she be opposed. He was in favor of the broadest equality. If she was to be equal in

the professions, let her be equal on the farm and in the ditch. Let the members consult with whom they please, if they are professionally qualified. He moved that the whole matter be indefinitely postponed.

The previous question being called for, the motion prevailed with but a few dissenting voices.

Dr. John L. Atlee was anxious to say something, but the Chair ruled all remarks out of order.

Then, said Dr. J. L. Atlee, the Pennsylvania delegation are tied hand and foot.

The next business was the discussion of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the resignation of Dr. Julius Homberger, of New York, be accepted, and that all further consideration of him or of his peculiar methods of procuring practice be definitely postponed.

Dr. L. A. Sayre moved that the name of Dr. Julius Homberger be struck from the rolls. He gave as his reason for such a motion, that the individual referred to had violated the code of ethics by which the members are bound to be governed. He also read a letter of inquiry from the editor of the New Orleans Medical Journal, concerning the standing of Dr. H., who was now in that city, advertising his "wares in extenso."

Dr. Howard objected to the striking of Dr. Homberger's name from the roll on the testimony of a single accusation. He moved that this matter be referred to a committee of three, with instructions to investigate and report.

Dr. Arnold, of Georgia, denied that it was a single accusation. He stated that the testimony was abundant and well proven. The acts of this Dr. Homberger were disgraceful to the profession.

Dr. Noell of Baltimore obtained the floor, and read the advertisement of several doctors and testimonials from physicians in practice of the qualities of certain quack medicines, and held that it would not be honest or proper to strike Dr. Homberger's name from the roll until the skirts of the Association were clear of the same sin. It was a question of advertising, and he wanted it to be decided whether members of this Association should be permitted to lend their names to endorse the specialties of quack doctors.

Dr. Raphael, of New York, thought too much importance was given to this question. Dr. H. had resigned, and it ought to have been accepted, though he was no doubt glad of the advertisement given him.

Dr. Davis, of Chicago, reviewed Dr. H.'s rela-

tions to the Society, and said the real question was, Shall a member who defied its rules be permitted to resign? This was last year referred to the Committee on Ethics, who reported the resolution. He thought the simplest plan to get rid of him and his humbugs was to accept his resignation.

Dr. Palmer, of Michigan insisted that a resignation required the action of the Society. Dr. H. had violated its plainest rules. He should therefore be expelled.

The vote for the expulsion of Dr. H. passed without dissent.

Dr. Howard arose to make a personal explanation, to set himself right on the records of the Association. He did not wish to be understood as defending the course of Dr. H., but was opposed to hasty action, and wished also to learn the sense of the Association on the subject of advertising.

Dr. Hartman, of Baltimore, submitted some resolutions from the Baltimore Medical Association to the practice of some physicians whose names appear on the roll of the American Medical Association, and who have yet permitted their names to appear in the daily newspapers endorsing the qualifications and professional character of a foreign specialist who has recently settled there.

Dr. Atlee thought the local societies should settle these questions.

Dr. Gross thought they ought to be careful about censuring gentlemen, for their names were sometimes used without authority.

The resolutions were referred to the Committee on Ethics.

The Association then adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

In the evening, by invitation of the Surgeon-General, the Association in a body visited the Army Medical Museum, and examined the pathological and historical specimens, which are rapidly accumulating, and are an honor to our country and a credit to the medical department of the army.

The microscopical exhibition in the lower hall of the Museum, was one of the finest ever witnessed in the United States.

The exhibition was conducted by Dr. J. J. Woodward, and proved most interesting to all present. Members manifested their admiration at the success maintained in photographing anatomical specimens, by enthusiastic applause.

The enjoyments of the day terminated with a brilliant reception at the residence of Senator Morgan.

THIRD DAY—Thursday, May 7th.

The Association resumed its session at 9 o'clock, Dr. Gross in the chair. Reports were received from the Treasurer and Committee of Publication, which were read and ordered to be printed.

Many papers were received and referred to appropriate committees.

A resolution was adopted, that at the next meeting the subject of Specialties in Medicine, and the propriety of specialist advertising be reported on by a special committee.

The Committee on Nominations made the following report:

That the next place of meeting be New Orleans.

That the following named gentlemen be the officers for the ensuing year:

President, WM. O. BALDWIN, of Alabama; 1st Vice-President, GEO. MENDENHALL, of Ohio; 2d do., N. YOUNG, District of Columbia; 3d do., N. P. MONROE, of Maine; 4th do., S. M. BENIS, of Louisiana; Treasurer, CASPAR WISTER, of Philadelphia.

Committee on Publication—Francis G. Smith, chairman; William B. Atkinson, Caspar Wister, Pennsylvania; H. F. Askew, Delaware; Richard M. Cooper, New Jersey; J. W. H. Lovejoy, District of Columbia; Wm. Mayburry, Pennsylvania.

The report of the Committee was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Mayburry offered, as an additional amendment to Article 5, Plan of Organization, "No report, purporting to emanate from any committee, shall be received unless it be signed by a majority of its members." Laid over.

The Secretary suggested to the delegates that the business of the Publication Committee was rapidly on the increase, and that the funds on hand were not adequate to meet the expenses of printing all the proceedings, as they should be.

The Committee on the President's Address made their report, accompanied by the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the Publishing Committee are hereby invested with plenary power in regard to all papers not read before the Association or in the Section, to publish or not, as may seem expedient.

2. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed by the chair, to take into consideration the subject of appointment of a commissioner in each judicial district or circuit, whose duty it shall be to aid in the examination of witnesses in every trial involving medico-legal testimony, and to report at the next meeting of the Association.

3. *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to report next year, in regard to the subject of an Annual Register of the regular profession in the United States, and in the meantime to take necessary measures to carry the plan into effect.

4. *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to take into consideration the subject of the best mode of providing a Fund for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Deceased Physicians, and report to the Association at the next meeting.

5. *Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the subject of the establishment of Veterinary Colleges, and report at our next meeting.

6. *Resolved*, That all Hospitals and Public Institutions for the care and treatment of the sick should have educated, well-trained nurses only; that this Association would strongly recommend the establishment, in all our large cities, of nurse-training institutions.

The first was lost, and the balance adopted, excepting the sixth, which was referred to a special committee, consisting of Drs. S. D. Gross, of Philadelphia; Elisha Harris, of New York, and Charles A. Lee, of New York.

The Chair then announced the following committees:

Commissioners to Aid in Trials involving Scientific Testimony—Dr. John Ordronaux, of New York; A. B. Palmer, of Michigan; Stephen Smith, of New York; J. R. W. Palmer, of Baltimore.

Annual Medical Register—Drs. John H. Packard, of Philadelphia; William B. Bibbins, of New York; and Ellsworth Eliot, of New York.

Devising a Plan for the Relief of Widows and Orphans of Medical Men—Drs. J. H. Griscom, of New York; N. S. Davis, of Illinois; and A. C. Post, of New York.

Veterinary College—Dr. Thomas Antisel, of Washington, D. C.; C. C. Lee, of New York; and John C. Dalton, of New York.

Specialties in Medicine—Dr. E. Lloyd Howard, Frank Donnellson, and Christopher Johnson, all of Maryland.

He also appointed the following delegates to represent the American Medical Association in Canada, to meet in September next—C. C. Cox, M. D., LL.D., of Maryland; Drs. John L. Atlee, of Pennsylvania; N. S. Davis, of Illinois; Chas. C. Lee, of New York; Grafton Tyler, of the District of Columbia; W. M. Wood, of the Navy; and S. D. Gross, of Philadelphia.

On motion, the Permanent Secretary was instructed to appoint a Sub-committee of Arrangements of three from each State.

Dr. C. C. Cox then read the report on American Medical Necrology, which occupied some time, and was ordered to be printed.

[To be continued.]

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

Periscope.

Mushroom Poisoning.

Dr. T. M. LOGAN of San Francisco, California, gives the following interesting case in the *Pacific Med. Journal*:

On Friday, 10th January, 1868, at about 4 P. M., Mrs. Tully and her three children by a former husband, McIntyre, residing at the corner of Eddy and Devisadero sts., ate with their supper, which consisted as usual of dried cod-fish and potatoes, two small mushrooms, about one and a half inches in diameter of the *pileus* or cap, which had been gathered by the children in a neighboring lot, brought home and cooked by them very hastily upon the stove. The mother states that she did not examine the mushrooms, but was under the impression that they were the well known esculent species, and that she merely drank the juice, while the children divided and ate the mushrooms between them. Neither the mother nor the children had perceived any bitter, acrid, or disagreeable taste.

In the course of the following morning, Saturday one of the children, George, aged nearly nine years, complained of some pain in his stomach, for which his mother administered a dose of senna tea. Steadily as the day advanced, however, the distress in the abdominal region increased, while thirst and headache, with occasional vomiting and purging, developed themselves. About bed-time, Saturday night, the youngest child, Sarah Jane, five years old, commenced complaining of her stomach, vomiting and purging also two or three times during the night; and some time after bed-time, the eldest girl, Delia, aged ten years, began to exhibit similar symptoms. On the next morning, Sunday, Mrs. Tully, feeling rather unwell herself, and finding the children's sickness persisting, began to suspect the mushrooms eaten on Friday as the cause, and by the advice of an intelligent neighbor, administered an emetic of ipecacuanha to the three children.

Soon after this, George's symptoms becoming rapidly more alarming, a little brandy and water was occasionally administered, but without any benefit; and convulsions setting in, medical aid was sought. At about half-past 1 P. M., Sunday afternoon, I was called upon by Mr. Tully to visit his family without delay. Although making all reasonable haste, it was some thirty or forty

minutes more before I reached the distant residence. On entering the house my attention was immediately called to the boy, who was just coming out of a violent convulsive paroxysm, and vomiting a whitish serous fluid, resembling the ejecta of cholera. His face was of a livid red color: pupils of his eyes enormously dilated and responsivity to light lost; head hot and feet cold; pulse 130, small and irregular; tongue and lips rather livid, but moist and cold; abdomen tumid and tympanitic; respiration quick, broken and sibilant; action of heart disturbed, and the rhythm and force of its contractions modified. The warm bath having been already resorted to without any benefit, I now ordered sinapisms to the epigastrium and extremities—bottles of hot water to the feet; an enema of warm soap and water, and, as soon as sufficient consciousness was restored, administered spts. ether comp. dr. i,—which I happened to have with me,—in a little sugar and water. These efforts, however, were all in vain, for in a few moments another general convulsion supervened; the lips and visage became cyanotic; the enema was unconsciously returned, and death by asphyxia, resulting apparently from pulmonary engorgement, closed the case in about ten minutes after my arrival.

I next turned my attention to the youngest girl, whose flushed cheeks, hissing respiration, injected and turned back eyes, and contracted and rapid pulse, threatened an impending convulsive paroxysm. By means of sinapisms to the extremities, bottles of hot water to the feet, cold applications to the head, and the administration of spts. ether comp. ʒss., followed by a tumbler full of cold milk, which she eagerly drank, a manifest amelioration of the spasmodic symptoms was witnessed, notwithstanding that of cholera in every respect; while, contrary to rule in that disease, urination steadily persisted.

I was now enabled to give some attention to the eldest girl, who was presenting the same symptoms as those of her younger sister, except the tendency to convulsions. In both these cases the tongue and lips were red and glossy, the eyes injected and pupils enormously dilated and non-respondent to light; thirst urgent; abdomen tympanitic and sensitive to pressure, and intelligence disturbed. I followed out the same treatment as in the former case, and soon further directed emollient cataplasms to the abdomen in both cases. Concluding shortly after, when re-actionary symptoms began to appear, that I had here two cases of gastro-enteritis, complicated with narcotico-acrid poisoning, I

prescribed a mucilaginous mixture of phosphate of lime, with orange flower water to allay the vomiting, and drink of gum-water, *ad libitum*, to assuage the thirst.

On Monday morning, the second day of my attendance, I found my two litile patients much prostrated, particularly the younger, although the purging and vomiting were abated; the pupils of the eyes less dilated and more respondent to light; and a salutary perspiration was perceptible about the head and temples. In both, the pulse was frequent and hard, and in the younger, more decidedly, a lividness of the contour of the eyes and mouth indicated some congestion of carbonated blood in the capillary circulation.

The alarm and confusion of these cases prevented, at the proper time, both on the part of the numerous attendants and myself, that thorough observance of all the phenomena of morbid actions, which the present state of medical science exacts, but which is found so difficult to be carried out in private practice. It was about this stage, however, in their progress, that I thought I detected on the surface of the the urine, of some two or three hours standing, which was passing rapidly to putrefactive fermentation, the small white cottony flocks, answering to the description of the spore-bearing threads of *Salisbury*. Although, unfortunately, no other opportunity offered to satisfy myself on this point, I nevertheless shaped my treatment accordingly. Adopting now the views of this writer respecting palmelloid poisoning, and in order to brace up the system of my patients until nature could effect her cure by eliminating what I now conceived to be cryptogamic poisoning, through the skin, mucous surfaces, and kidneys, I prescribed a mixture, glycerole quiniæ, oz. ii; spts. ether nit. half oz.; aqua camph. 3½ oz., to be given to both children by teaspoonfuls every two hours, with the continued free use of gum water and cold milk, *ad libitum* for sustenance.

At my evening visit I found both my patients doing well; the bowels had been two or three times evacuated, and the other excretions were abundant. They had partaken freely of milk, and the elder had asked for some bread, which was allowed. The younger girl was disposed to somnolency, apparently from exhaustion. I directed a continuance of the morning treatment.

On Tuesday morning I was surprised by an early summons to meet Dr. MANNING in consultation. On arriving at the house I was relieved by finding that the somnolency, which proved to

be recuperative, in the younger girl, noticed the day before, had been misconstrued by the mother into approaching dissolution, and hence the alarm and desire for further medical advice. After I had acquainted him with all the circumstances of the case, Dr. MANNING expressed himself perfectly satisfied as to the correctness of my course of treatment, so much so as to convince the family that his services were not then wanted, and would not be needed again.

From this time the recuperative energies of my patients advanced *pari passu* with the free diuresis and diaphoresis excited by the treatment, which was adapted to the elimination of the poison from the system. The livid appearance of the contour of the eyes and mouth gradually cleared up, the dilatation of the pupils of the eyes became less and less, the torpor of mind and body gave place to vivacity and activity, the urine and other excretions gradually returned to their normal condition, and by the last of the week, nine days after the mushrooms had been eaten, my patients appeared to be getting on so well that I discontinued my visits.

It is to be observed here that the mother who drank the juice only of the mushrooms, experienced all this time little or no unpleasant effects. She afterwards, however, consulted me about an erythematous affection of her neck and breast, of a persistent character, which she attributed to the mushrooms. It would seem, therefore, that, in these cases, the juice proved the least poisonous part. This is contrary to the heretofore generally received opinion. CHAUBAREL found the poisonous principle to reside in the juice, and not in the fleshy part. [*Repert. für die Pharmacie*, LXVI., p. 117: *Christison on Poisons*, p. 704.]

Another circumstance worthy of particular notice was the great durability of the symptoms, and the length of time which elapsed before their manifestation. GMELIN [*Aymen. in Hist. de la Soc. Roy. de Med.*, I, 344] has quoted a set of some seventeen cases, in which, it was said, a day and a half intervened between the eating and the poisonous symptoms of mushrooms. These were cases, however, in which the symptoms were rather attributable to their indigestibility, after a hearty meal of mushrooms, as mention is made of portions being discharged by vomiting. It is the longest period I find recorded by any of the numerous observers on this point. Generally it has been noted that but a few hours, sometimes but a few moments elapse before poisonous symptoms develop themselves. This is what would be naturally expected from

the irritation of an acrid narcotic placed in direct contact with the highly organized gastric surface. But when it is remembered that in our case, there were only two small mushrooms, partially cooked, and divided between four persons, and the lapse of time is taken into consideration which transpired before any effects whatever were experienced, it must be acknowledged that there was something more brought into play, even allowing that the mushrooms were mistaken for toad-stools of the most virulent nature, than the merely narcotico-irritant action of so small a portion.

Reviews and Book Notices.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

Letters frequently reach us asking information about various mechanical surgical contrivances, wishing to know how the precise measurements must be taken in ordering them from a distance, or requesting us to suggest some one of the many instrumental means adopted for the relief of deformities. We have often felt at a loss for some good, well-illustrated catalogue, which would give in brief all such information. There was none. Now, however, we are glad to say that want is supplied, and well supplied. Mr. D. W. KOLBE, the well known instrument maker of this city, (15 South 9th street,) has recently published a pamphlet of 37 pages, illustrated with 84 wood cuts, exhibiting numerous specimens of various orthopædic appliances, and giving minute and full directions for taking the necessary measurements to obtain and adjust them properly. The forms are of the most approved kinds, endorsed by the best surgeons of our day. The catalogue can be had on application as above, and will be found very useful.

The "Fifty-First Annual Report on the State of the Asylum for the Relief of Persons deprived of the use of their Reason," at Frankford, Pa., which is embellished with two handsome lithographs, shows that admirably conducted institution in a flourishing state.

The Addresses delivered at the Nineteenth Annual Commencement of the Medical Department of Georgetown College, by Drs. ROBERT REYBURN and GEO. M. WELLMAN, have been printed by the request of the graduating class in pamphlet form. They are well written and appropriate.

The Pennsylvania State Temperance Conven-

tion was held in Harrisburg in February. A pamphlet of its proceedings has been published at Lancaster, (Daily Express Office.) It contains a number of papers on moderate drinking, alcoholic drinks in disease, intemperance and disease, intemperance and crime, etc., which will be found vigorous in language, if they are occasionally "shaky" in statistics.

We have received the "Report of the Board of Health of the City and Port of Philadelphia for 1867," for which the Register has our thanks. We shall refer to it again.

The "Report of the Commissioners of Quarantine and the Health Officer of the Port of New York" for 1867, contains some valuable statistics on the introduction of the cholera into this country.

The "Resources of Missouri," by Mr. SYLVESTER WATERHOUSE, of St. Louis, a pamphlet of 64 pages, is intended to show the great natural wealth of that large and flourishing State, and its peculiar advantages for parties who propose to migrate to the West. It should be read by all who anticipate so doing.

The Indigestions; or Diseases of the Digestive Organs functionally Treated. By THOMAS KING CHAMBERS. Second American, from the Second and revised London edition. Philadelphia: H. C. LEA. 1868. 1 vol., 8vo., cloth, pp. 319. Price, \$2.50.

This well known work of Dr. CHAMBERS has all the fresh interest and sound learning which characterized his "Renewal of Life." We have rarely perused any work on that troublesome disease, dyspepsia, which at all approached it in valuable suggestions, and never any which surpassed it in brilliancy of style and felicity of illustration. In the latter respect the author is really remarkable. His cases are told briefly, but most clearly and to the point.

After rehearsing the various forms of Indigestion, Dr. C. touches upon the various habits of social life which lead to them. Here he enunciates some peculiar views. Natural sexual excess he thinks rather favors digestion than impedes it; moderate drinking he does not abhor; he makes out by no means so strong a case against tobacco as many other writers have done; and he pooh-poohs at both the dangers and the insidious hold upon the appetite of opium eating. The closing chapter on nerve disorders connected with indigestion, is especially worthy study, on account of the light it throws on many obscure and annoying complaints.

Medical and Surgical Reporter.

PHILADELPHIA, MAY 16, 1868.

S. W. BUTLER, M. D., & D. G. BRINTON, M. D., *Editors.*

Medical Society and Clinical Reports, Notes and Observations, Foreign and Domestic Correspondence News, etc. etc., of general medical interest, are respectfully solicited.

Articles of special importance, such especially as require original experimental research, analysis, or observation, will be liberally paid for.

To insure publication, articles must be *practical, brief* as possible to do justice to the subject, and *carefully prepared*, so as to require as little revision as possible.

We particularly value the practical experience of country practitioners, many of whom possess a fund of information that rightfully belongs to the profession.

The AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The nineteenth meeting of the Association, which was held in Washington last week, is admitted to have been one of the best ever held. The general business was transacted harmoniously and expeditiously, and an unusual amount of business was done in the Sectional meetings. We give in this number a carefully prepared, and full report of the proceedings of the morning sessions, reserving a report of the Sectional meetings to our next issue, for want of space. The meeting was well attended, every part of the country being represented. The fraternization of the north and south was complete.

A number of important special committees were appointed, who, it is hoped, will be fully ready with their reports at the next meeting. Among these, are those on constitutional amendments, and on archives and library. The constitution has been tinkered at every year since the organization of the Association, and it is to be hoped that the committee will study the minutes of past meetings closely, and endeavor to embody in their report all the ideas that have been proposed, that are worthy of consideration.

It will be observed that in spite of the restriction imposed on the Committee of Arrangements at the meeting at Cincinnati in respect to entertainments, etc., the social features of this meeting were sufficiently marked. As this is a very important and necessary feature of all medical society meetings, it is folly to endeavor to repress them entirely. It

may, however, be carried too far, as was done at Cincinnati last year.

We do not doubt that much of the success of this meeting is due to the efficiency of Dr. GROSS as a presiding officer. All who are in the habit of attending the meetings of the Association, know how important it is to have a good presiding officer. Dr. GROSS' national reputation tended also to add interest and character to the meeting, showing the importance of conferring this high dignity on such men, and such only.

SHALL PROSTITUTION BE LICENSED?

Some time last year we quoted at considerable length a letter from Professor ANDREWS, of Chicago, bearing on the question we have placed at the head of this article. Prof. A. answered it with a decided negative. He compared, or undertook to compare the prevalence of syphilis in Paris and other cities, where a system of licensing houses of prostitution is in vogue, with its frequency in Chicago, and others of our own and English cities, where no such regulations exist. He concluded that a license is injurious, first, because it holds out a real or fancied security against disease, and thus increases temptations; and, secondly, because it is in fact impossible to enforce.

While we gave Dr. A's views without comment, we were and are far from considering that they were based on thoroughly trustworthy data, or were entirely free from prejudice. That a law is not enforced, is no sign that it is not sound and useful; that temptation is increased by these regulations we know is not the case; and that Dr. A's statistics are dependable we seriously doubt.

But it was not to discuss the question that we mentioned this letter of Dr. ANDREWS. It was to show what the Sanitary Commissioners of the Metropolitan Board of Health of New York, Drs. PARKER, STONE, and CRANE, who have recently studied the subject in all its bearing, recommend. Their communication appears in the appendix to the very valuable "Second Annual Report of the Metropolitan Board of Health of the State of New York," recently issued.

After making the appalling statements that there are on the police reports 569 houses of prostitution and 90 houses of assignation in New York, that at the present time at least 20,000 persons are suffering with venereal disease in that city; and after touching briefly but pointedly on what is called the "moral" view of the question, they proceed to submit the following propositions:

1st. That the hospitals and dispensaries which receive pecuniary aid from the State, shall be obliged to treat venereal diseases.

2d. That all keepers of houses of prostitution and assignation shall be registered.

3d. That when any woman gains admission, she shall at once be reported to the police.

4th. That a hospital shall be established for prostitutes.

5th. That the houses and persons of all prostitutes shall be inspected.

Of course these recommendations are crude and incomplete, but they show the tendency of thoughtful unbiased men, who have given long and close attention to the various possible remedies for this great evil. All we ask for them is, that every member of our profession shall weigh them well, and in his judgment rise superior to the prejudices arising from mistaken or effete religious or ethical notions which environ the subject.

Notes and Comments.

The Right Track.

We are glad to see that there are some papers in our country who have decency and honor enough to refuse the disgusting and immoral advertisements of quack doctors. The *Yolo County, California, Democrat*, for instance, uses the following manly language:

"We are in almost constant receipt of requests to publish statements, certificates, and catalogues, prepared for the public without any regard to the moral tendencies of their contents, by persons calling themselves physicians. There should be a strict law enacted to prohibit the vendors of quack medicines, or any other persons, from advertising their wares and 'professional' services in terms indelicate, indecent, and obscene, whether 'strictly confidential' or not. Agents or principals, who have been in the habit of send-

ing such advertisements to the office of the *Democrat*, are informed that they may save time, trouble, ink, paper, and stamps, by refraining in future from all similar attempts, for we will not publish them, whether 'it pays,' or not."

We wish that some of the so-called "religious" papers would follow this example.

Cast Iron Stoves.

A discussion has been going on in the Parisian Academy of Medicine, on the healthiness or unhealthiness of cast iron stoves, (*poêles de fonte*.) Some physicians claimed that a gradual absorption of carbonic oxide takes place by the metal sides, which is slowly disengaged in the surrounding atmosphere. This causes the air of the room to assume a poisonous character, and induces typhoid fevers and similar diseases. The other party asserts that no such process takes place, and that if there is any diffusion of the gas by the plates, it is on their inner, and not outer surfaces.

A New Galvanic Battery.

A new galvanic battery is described in the last number of "*Les Mondes*" as follows:

"M. BOËTTGER has published in a recent article a mode of constructing voltaic batteries, which has the advantage of being simple, and of small expense. It is particularly applicable where a constant current is desired; as for example, for electric clocks. It consists of a jar of glass or earthenware, into which is introduced a hollow cylinder of zinc, containing a cylinder of coke. These two cylinders do not touch, and the space between the two is filled with a mixture of common salt and sulphate of magnesia in a moist condition. The cells or elements are then connected in the ordinary manner."

A New Thermometer.

A new thermometer, which is not affected by radiation, has lately been devised by Dr. JOULÉ. It consists of a copper tube surrounding another tube, which is open at the top, and having a hinged bottom; in the smaller tube is suspended a fine wire in a spiral form, suspended by a silk thread, upon which is a small mirror. When the bottom is closed, the mirror stands at 0°, but when open, the air inside being usually warmer than the outside atmosphere, a current is established, twisting the silk. One degree Fahrenheit, causes a complete turn of the mirror. The cause assigned by the author for this elevation of temperature inside the copper tube, is, that the copper absorbs light and heat from the atmosphere, and causes an internal radiation.

Correspondence.

DOMESTIC.

Apparent Death from Chloroform.

EDITORS OF MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER:

The hope of receiving information that will satisfy my own mind, as well as the minds of many of this community, through the medium of your excellent journal, is my excuse for addressing to you this communication; and in order that you may understand better what I desire, I will give you briefly a statement of the case.

Dr. J. T. VAN BUSKIRK, a graduate of the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, my partner in practice, and a worthy and scientific man, died recently under somewhat peculiar circumstances.

He complained in the morning of having a severe headache, and kept his bed; during the day he possessed himself in some manner of a bottle of chloroform, and commenced inhaling it for the purpose of relieving his head. It is supposed it overcame him before he was aware, and when found, he was dead. When the time for the funeral ceremonies arrived, stories were in circulation that he was not dead, that he had showed signs of life. He was examined by three physicians, who pronounced him dead, myself being one of the number; but this was not sufficient to satisfy them. Numerous witnesses brought forth testimony to the effect that they had known cases of apparent death by chloroform, where the person came to life after a number of days, etc. So high did the excitement run, that the body was disinterred after about thirty-six hours, and again examined, one of the three physicians being present; again decided that life was extinct, and the body was reburied.

Since that time so many have come to me with cases in which the person apparently dying from chloroform have recovered after a number of days, that I now wish to know whether you or the many readers of the REPORTER are conversant with any such cases, in which an overdose of chloroform has thrown the individual into a state resembling that of a trance, from which they have finally emerged and recovered. For my part I have been, and am still inclined to treat such stories very much as you treat the question of "Reptiles in the Human Stomach," in the REPORTER of March 28th, 1868. But I should be much pleased to hear something on the sub-

ject from those of more extended observation than myself.

D. A. McLEAN, M. D.

Gorham, Ohio, April 22, 1868.

[We doubt very much the frequency of any such result from the administration of this agent.—Eds.]

An Answer to Dr. Campbell.

(REPORTER, vol. xviii., page 354.)

EDITORS MEDICAL AND SURGICAL REPORTER:

In reply to the article, "An M. D. 'stumped,'" I give the following case, of several others in my practice.

Mrs. F., who lives in the second house below my office, had an abscess of the breast, which commenced some three days after her first confinement, which was about five years ago, and since that time she has been frequently affected with induration of the breast, followed in a few hours with chills and fever, which, if left alone, return every day or every other day.

Having become accustomed to the symptoms, as soon as she begins to feel the pain and hardening of the breast, she takes quinine in five-grain doses, which, in twenty-four hours, removes the pain, and frequently prevents the chill and fever. This patient has been confined once since the time above mentioned. She is subject to the attacks alike while her infants nurse, and after they are weaned. I consider her complaint neither chronic weid nor neuralgia, but intermitting fever, and if left alone, the induration and pain would increase with every paroxysm. Let Dr. M. C. CAMPBELL try quinia in large doses, and see whether he cannot set aside an attack in his patient. I find many more abscesses since I have practised in a miasmatic district, than before.

E. A. OPPELT, M. D.

Tuscarawas, Ohio, April 29, 1868.

News and Miscellany.

Golden Wedding.

The fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Dr. WM. A. A. HUNT, an old physician of Clarksville, N. J., was celebrated on May 5th. A number of clergymen and other friends assembled at his residence, and tendered their congratulations to the couple, who had for half a century withstood the assault of time, as man and wife. No presents being accepted from the friends—the son and daughter presented a superb writing desk, with stationery, a beautiful "Morton" gold pen, and a very fine gold-headed ebony cane, bearing the inscription, "WM. A. A. HUNT, Golden Wed-

ding, May 5th, 1868," and some suitable jewelry for Mrs. HUNT.

The entertainment was an exceedingly interesting one to all who participated.

Anecdotes of Malgaigne.

A good tale or two are told of MALGAIGNE in the *Gazette Médicale de Lyon*. "How do you proceed," he asked a candidate, "in performing the operation of extraction of cataract?" "I—I," hesitatingly replied the youth, "empty the anterior chamber." "Very well; and next?" The candidate, seeing himself thus encouraged, and believing himself to be on the right road; "And then I empty the posterior chamber!" "Capital; and then?" "I—I—I—" "Why, you stick up a bill, 'chambre à louer.'" In the next the candidate was evidently a sharper fellow than this noodle. MALGAIGNE, interrogating him upon the rotation of the stomach in its conditions of vacuity and repletion, and on the relative gravity of wounds of the organ in these two different conditions, in order to put the question more precisely, said, "Now, sir, if you were called out to fight a duel, would you think it more prudent to breakfast before or not?" "By my faith, sir," replied the other, "I would breakfast before, because I could by no means be sure of being able to do so afterward." The last we give in the original. Examining a would-be *officier de santé*, he asked him how he would proceed for the extraction of the placenta. "Je tirerais sur le cordon." "Et après?" "Je tirerais sur le cordon." "Bien, mais si rien ne venait?" "Je tirerais plus fort sur le cordon!" "Eh! Monsieur, une portière en ferait autant que vous."—*N. Y. Med. Journal*.

ERRATUM.—On p. 395 in Dr. BLODGETT's letter for *tibio-dorsal* read *ilio-sacral*.

[Notices inserted in this column gratis, and are solicited from all parts of the country; Obituary Notices and Resolutions of Societies at ten cents per line, ten words to the line.]

MARRIED.

BRECKINRIDGE-McKNIGHT.—At the residence of the bride's father, near Louisville, Ky., April 30th, by the Rev. W. L. Breckinridge, Dr. Stanhope L. Breckinridge, of Danville, Ky., and Miss Rosa L. McKnight, of Louisville.

HURST-KINCAID.—April 29th, at the residence of the bride's father, near Irish Grove, by Rev. F. J. Moffatt, Dr. Merritt Hurst and Miss Mary F. Kincaid, all of Mendon county, Illinois.

STOKES-ROVER.—May 5th, 1868, at St. Paul's Church, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, by Rev. John A. Harris, James Stokes, M. D., of Lenox, Ohio, and Willie C., daughter of Jacob Rover, Esq., of Branchtown, Pa.

TUNIS-ALLEN.—By the Rev. B. B. Sutcliffe, May 6th, 1868, G. Stafford Tunis, of Burrville, and Miss Augusta Allen, of Point Pleasant, Ocean co., N. J.

DIED.

AGNEW.—At Harrisburg, Pa., April 12th, Dr. Henry Agnew, aged 28 years, late of Easton, Northampton co., Pa.

HATFIELD.—In this city, on the 4th inst., Lella, daughter of Dr. N. L. and Susanna Louisa Hatfield, aged 15 years.

HOUSEKEEPER.—In this city, on the 4th inst., Jeremiah King Housekeeper, youngest son of Dr. Benjamin and Elizabeth Housekeeper, aged 9 years and 9 months.

LONDON.—In Brooklyn, N. Y., of scarlet fever, May 4th, Seymour Harper London, 4 years of age, son of Dr. D. S. and Elizabeth H. London.

PAGE.—In Washington, D. C., on the 5th inst., in his 57th year, Professor Charles Grafton Page, M. D., Examiner in the Patent Office.

PLEASANTS.—On the 2d inst., after a short illness, at the residence of her parents, in Radnor, Delaware co., Pa., Emily Sargent, daughter of Dr. Henry and Emily Pleasants.

WHITING.—In New York, May 2d, Dr. Alexander B. Whiting, once Health Officer of the Port of New York.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Dr. J. S. G., of Ga.—"I have been treating a case of epilepsy for twelve months, with bromide of potassium. The case is functional, as far as I can judge. Has lasted twelve years. No regularity in the attacks. The patient very seldom falls. Previous to the use of the bromide, he always lost consciousness, but now he very often is conscious in the attack. I began the bromide in fifteen-grain doses three times a day, and have now got up to forty-five. At every increase of the dose there is an improvement. What I wish to know particularly is, how much can I give? Will a hundred grains three times a day be safe? The patient is the picture of good health. Can I add anything to the bromide?"

It is not altogether safe to venture too boldly on the bromide. $\frac{3j}$ ter die, should hardly be exceeded. At least one case of death by poisoning has been reported, where it was given in excess.

"Is there anything better than arsenic in pityriasis or any chronic skin disease?" Your question is too broad for us to answer directly. It depends on the disease and the patient. On the whole, tar is probably as efficacious as arsenic—more so, often.

Dr. B. B., of Mich.—"Is there any work or monograph extant on 'locomotor ataxia'?" If so, please give name and place. If there is none, from what source can one obtain a full exposition of the pathology and treatment of the disease? We know of none published in this country. Gay's Hospital Reports for 1866 has a good article on it.

"Will you please give me the name and price of the best electro-galvanic apparatus, and where it can be procured? A portable instrument is preferable, or medium in size. Do you know anything of Jerome Kidder's six-current electro-medical apparatus, of New York? We think Kidder's is the best. The only objection to it is that it is patented. Price \$20.00.

Dr. J. K. S., of Pa.—"What work do you recommend on spinal diseases?" Taylor on "Spinal Irritation," may perhaps cover the points you wish.

METEOROLOGY.

April,	27,	28,	29,	30,	M. 1,	2,	3.
Wind.....	N.	E.	E.	S.W.	N.W.	N.E.	N.E.
Weather.....	Clear.	Cl'dy.	Cl'dy.	Clear.	Clear.	Cl'dy.	Cl'dy.
Depth Rain..			Rain.			5-10	
Thermometer.							
Minimum.....	39°	40°	35°	38°	40°	40°	39°
At 8 A. M.....	62	51	47	49	59	55	48
At 12, M.....	67	58	45	59	62	58	57
At 3, P. M.....	68	59	44	67	64	58	56
Mean.....	59.	52.	42.75	53.25	56.25	52.75	49.25
Barometer.							
At 12, M.....	30.4	30.4	29.9	29.9	30.2	30.1	30.1

Germantown, Pa.

B. J. LEBRON.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY.

The 102d Annual meeting of the Medical Society of New Jersey will be held at Princeton on Tuesday, May 26th, at half-past 7 o'clock, P. M. The meeting will continue during the following day.

WM. PIERSON, Jr.,

Recording Secretary.

Orange, May 5, 1868.